

Between The Lines



Dear W.I. Members:

As you begin reading this issue of Home and Country, are you aware, that, in regard to the publishing of this magazine, a very long record has been reached? This is Volume 50 of the provincial publication of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. It represents the 50th year Women's Institute members have been receiving this informative magazine.

On your behalf, I have expressed grateful appreciation to The Honourable Dennis R. Timbrell, Minister of Agriculture and Food, for the excellent support Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario receive from the Ministry, through the Rural Organizations and Services Branch, in publishing Home and Country in the interests of our organization. This magazine with its up-to-date and informative articles, provides a reliable and valued source of information for our members.

In 1984 our province, Ontario, will be celebrating the Bicentennial of its settlement and the subsequent growth over the past two hundred years. It is together with people of many backgrounds that Ontario has been built.

Our province has seen many changes in the past two centuries. In fact in 1784, our province was known as Upper Canada, and that name remained until Confederation.

Two hundred years ago our province was considered a wilderness still covered in forests. It was inhabited by the native peoples who had lived in harmony with the land for more than ten thousand years. A few French and British lived along

the trading routes. Near present-day Midland, the first permanent European settlement had taken place at Ste. Marie among the Hurons in 1639.

Following the American Revolution, the first of several thousands of United Empire Loyalists arrived in the spring of 1784. They located at the east end of Lake Ontario, along the St. Lawrence, Niagara, Grand and Detroit Rivers. The Loyalists gave Ontario a big start. Many of these Loyalists who came from the United States were American born of English, Scottish and Irish origins. Included in this diverse group were Iroquois of the six nations, German and Dutch. These hardy pioneers who created homes for their families in the wilderness were mainly farmers and shopkeepers.

In the period succeeding 1784, people from around the world have settled in Ontario. Whether our ancestors came generations ago, or in recent years to join the native people, each of us with our various backgrounds contribute to the strength of Ontario. During Bicentennial 1984, more than 8-1/2 million Ontario residents will be "Celebrating Together" our province's 200th anniversary.

1984 will give us an opportunity to celebrate together our rich heritage. With the establishment of a Bicentennial Committee in each municipality, Women's Institutes are encouraged to become involved in the program planning and in the actual celebration at the local level with other organizations.

Many Branches are in the unique position of possessing a Tweedsmuir History. The compilation of these histories, by a Tweedsmuir History Curator and her committee is very important, since it records the development and historical growth of the local community. Authentic in detail, the record of the history of the community is a tribute to the local people and a link in Ontario's history. Women's Institutes are encouraged to arrange for the display of their Tweedsmuir History during the Bicentennial. The public will become more aware of the value and significance of these histories, when given a special invitation to examine them.

Bicentennial will create pride and awareness in our province. A feeling of belonging to a wonderful province. Ontario residents will have an

opportunity to celebrate not only the past and present, but the future of our province.

Plan to Discover Ontario in Bicentennial year. Take time to discover interesting towns and villages. Travel the back-roads, view the splendor of our magnificent province and learn to appreciate the natural beauty within it. Plan ahead to celebrate Ontario's Bicentennial. It is to be a happy time and a joyful celebration.

Although 1984 will be the 200th anniversary of our first Loyalist settlements, it will also be a special year for many communities to celebrate their own anniversaries. The City of Toronto will be celebrating its sesquicentennial of incorporation in 1984. Cornwall, Belleville and Port Hope will also be celebrating their 150th anniversary. In Northern Ontario, 1984 is the 100th anniversary of a decision of the British Privy Council to include much of the land between James Bay and Lake Superior within our province. The Six Nations at Brantford will mark the 200th Anniversary of the Haldimand Deed giving them lands along the Grand River. The St. Lawrence Seaway will be 25 years old in 1984. The Seaway will be a favorite place for many visitors. Special events are planned to mark Cartier's first voyage to Canada in 1534, 450 years ago).

As we gather across Ontario next year, "Celebrating Together" our province's Bicentennial, let us remember our special citizens. Our seniors have paved the way for us today. These people deserve recognition for the role they have played in shaping our province. Our youth, who one day will take their place as leaders in the community, need to be involved. Bicentennial is for all citizens of Ontario. We have much to celebrate!

Congratulations and best wishes are extended to the 10 Charter Members in the Bloomfield Branch, Parry Sound South District and the newly formed Otty Lake Branch, South Lanark. Federated Women's Institute of Ontario is pleased to welcome these new branches to our organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Keith Hiepleh